

*Criminal Code*

a growing pollution of navigable waters, navigable lakes and things of that sort, which will require much closer co-operation between federal and provincial governments. But we have various provincial acts and each province has its legislation. I know that in the province of British Columbia matters concerning the pollution of waters, particularly for drinking purposes, come under the health act. Then, we have certain municipal by-laws and codes which are administered by the municipalities. Therefore, we have quite a lot of legislation which deals with the pollution of waters and yet today we have not had very effective results.

When we think of the pollution of waters it is easy to think of it as being directly related and possibly only related in most people's minds to the pollution of drinking water; but there are several aspects of water pollution. I think water pollution is divided into two main spheres: First, sea water pollution; and second, fresh water pollution. As far as the welfare of human beings is concerned, the first is the pollution of domestic water supplies from wastes of industrial plants, sewage and things of that sort. Then, we have what is known as hydraulic pollution. This is pollution of waters occasioned by silt and sand that affects the machinery of electrical installations and also silts up dams and structures and lowers their efficiency. Then there is such a thing in my experience in British Columbia in certain places and on certain occasions as the pollution of irrigation waters which can affect the conducting sources, pipes, installations, and if the pollution comes from sewage or industrial waste it can actually affect the crops to which the water is being applied.

Then there is such a thing as pollution for purposes of navigation. This does not concern us very much at this stage. It is mostly the question of debris and industrial wastes such as slabs, logs, things of that sort that are a pollution of water from a navigational point of view, plus silt and other deposits that affect steamer channels, courses of navigation and so on.

Then we have finally a most serious type of pollution, namely the pollution of sea or fresh water that affects our fish life. I think the domestic pollution of water and the pollution of water that affects fish life are the two main problems that concern us at this time. While the others are all of a serious nature the pollution that directly affects fish life is a serious problem to some areas on the pacific coast and in a few places in our interior lakes. I am fortunate to represent a constituency in which pollution of all varieties, in addition to water, is a rare thing

indeed. Ours is a very rarefied atmosphere. We have a very fine type of people living among lakes and rivers largely unpolluted to date, and I am very fortunate so far as I personally am concerned. I am able to draw my water from a creek on my property from a thousand-foot waterfall coming directly from the snow of the mountains above, so I am one of those very fortunate persons. It is because of the enjoyment we get from strictly pure water that I recognize very quickly the pollution of domestic and other waters when I see it in my visits to various parts of Canada. It is for that reason, that contrast, which was brought to my attention, that I became particularly interested some years ago and began doing my little bit toward correcting this situation by speaking on public platforms in the provincial legislature and finally in this house.

While we fully support the necessity for amendment to the law, we must emphasize the necessity for the development of dominion-provincial co-operation in order to establish one national agency to deal primarily with sea pollution and pollution in the interior, under the jurisdiction of the federal government and one provincial agency in each province to deal with all aspects of fresh water pollution that comes under the jurisdiction of a provincial government.

In my opinion today's approach has many shortcomings and fails almost completely to meet the situation. It is a bits and bobs program. It results in inefficient use of federal and provincial government personnel, in the first place; it inconveniences industry and in many respects it is unfair to industry because I have known industries that were anxious to do something to correct a certain situation and, because of the lack of one central agency in the province, because of the lack of an over-all policy concerning pollution, what they intended to do was delayed and delayed from year to year. I think the present policy leaves the public largely uninformed of the problem and the growing menace it presents in many areas of this country.

In my opinion, armed with the necessary authority, federal or provincial pollution control agencies could carry out very well the following functions. They could undertake—and I think they are necessary—surveys of existing conditions. Let us know where we stand in this matter, just as we did with the inventory of our forest reserves so that we knew where we stood prior to designing an official conservation program for our country. Second, there should be participation in determination of best present and future uses of lakes and streams in each province and